

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to appear as shown in the following list, which is submitted to replace all prior listings of claims.

1-19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently amended): A method for performing a procedure on a body, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing inserting a hollow shaft having a distal free end ~~and a shaft diameter into the body via a first orifice~~ without any surgical instrument supported on the distal free end, the hollow shaft having a diameter and containing a drive shaft rotatably disposed therein, the distal free end of the hollow shaft configured to permit a surgical instrument to be mounted to the distal free end of the hollow shaft;

(b) inserting the hollow shaft in the body via a first body orifice;

(c) inserting a surgical instrument into the body via a second body orifice, the surgical instrument including a coupling complimentary to and configured to couple with the distal free end of said hollow shaft to connect the drive shaft with the surgical instrument in operable communication; and

(([[c]]d) coupling the hollow shaft and the surgical instrument via the coupling to mount the surgical instrument to the distal end of the hollow shaft after the inserting steps of inserting the hollow shaft and inserting the surgical instrument (a) and (b).

21. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 20, wherein the hollow shaft and the surgical instrument are coupled in the coupling step (c) intracorporeally.

22. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 20, comprising the step of performing a surgical procedure after the coupling step (c).

23. (Original): The method according to claim 22, wherein the surgical procedure includes a tissue stapling procedure.

24. (Original): The method according to claim 22, wherein the surgical procedure includes

a tissue stapling and cutting procedure.

25. (Original): The method according to claim 22, wherein the surgical procedure includes an anastomosis procedure.
26. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 20, wherein the surgical instrument includes at least one of a surgical stapler instrument, a surgical stapler and cutter instrument, and an anastomosis instrument.
27. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 20, comprising the step of withdrawing the coupled hollow shaft and surgical instrument via the first orifice.
28. (Original): The method according to claim 20, wherein the first orifice includes at least one of a natural orifice, an incision and a cannula.
29. (Original): The method according to claim 20, wherein the second orifice includes at least one of a natural orifice, an incision and a cannula.
30. (Original): The method according to claim 20, wherein each of the first orifice and the second orifice includes at least one of a natural orifice, an incision and a cannula.
31. (Original): The method according to claim 20, wherein the first orifice is different from the second orifice.
32. (Cancelled.)
33. (Cancelled.)
34. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 20, wherein the hollow shaft is attached to a coupler quick-connect fitting projecting from the distal free end of the hollow shaft, said coupler quick-connect fitting having a diameter substantially equal to the hollow shaft diameter so that the hollow shaft and said coupler quick-connect fitting form a substantially uniform diameter which facilitates easy passage and maneuvering of the hollow shaft and said coupler quick-connect fitting into the body.
- 35-41. (Cancelled.)